

Message Text

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72

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 EB-11 INT-08 SCI-06

COME-00 CG-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-20 EPA-04

CEQ-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OIC-04 /175 W
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R 241500 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8012

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1902

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, P94, PFOR, XN, PO, OCON

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

REFS: (A) STATE 85811 (B) STATE 86920 (C) STATE 90315

SUMMARY . PORTUGAL SHARES US CONCERN ABOUT CONSERVATION
OF FISH RESOURCES IN US COASTAL WATERS AND GENRALLY
SUPPORTS US OBJECTIVES. GOP VIEWS, HOWEVER, ON TIMING,
TECHNIQUES, AND FORMULATION OF RULES DIFFER IN SOME RESPECTS
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FROM THOSE OF US. GOP SUPPORTS MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS TO FISHERY PROBLEMS AND AGREES THAT DEMISE OR WEAKENING OF ICNAF COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT EFFORTS TO FIND THEM AND COULD IMPAIR WORK OF UPCOMING LOS CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. PER REFS (A) AND (C) WE DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE AND US ICNAF NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TO TOP GOP FISHERIES OFFICIAL ESTEVES CARDOSO. PER REF (B) WE CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO CHAIRS GOP INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON LAW OF THE SEA.

2. ESTEVES CARDOSO, WHO DID NOT SEE DOCUMENTS UNTIL MAY 21 UPON HIS RETURN FROM ABROAD, TODAY (MAY 23) MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: A. PORTUGAL, WHOSE FISHING INDUSTRY DEPENDS ON BOTH COASTAL AND DISTANT FISHING, FULLY UNDERSTANDS US CONCERNS AND SUPPORTS USG CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES. B. GOP AGREES USG SHOULD SEEK REMOVAL RESERVATIONS BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES. HE SAID HE HAS ALWAYS FELT USSR RESERVATION PERMITTING ONLY ON-DECK INSPECTION IS UNREALISTIC, AND BELIEVES THAT USSR, TO WHOM FISHERIES VITAL, WILL BACK DOWN IF US AND OTHERS ARE FIRM ON THIS ISSUE. C. WHILE GOP AGREES THAT BETTER DATA DESIRABLE AND WOULD LIKE TO BE OF GREATER ASSISTANCE IN THIS RESPECT, IT FACED WITH DIFFICULT TASK OF EDUCATING VERY UNSOPHISTICATED FISHERMEN WHOSE MENTALITY NOT TUNED TO DATA REPORTING. GOP DATA COLLECTING IMPROVING, HOWEVER, AND GOP WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO IMPROVE. D. WHILE GOP CAN AGREE THAT US JANUARY PROPOSAL PROVIDES BASIS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION, PROPOSAL TOO COMPLICATED AND DATA TOO SPARSE FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT WITHOUT MORE THOROUGH DISCUSSION. WOODS HOLE MEETING IN MARCH, HE FELT, HAD MADE PROGRESS, BUT ITS FAILURE TO COMPLETE DISCUSSIONS IS TESTIMONY TO COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEMS INVOLVED. E. GOP CAN AGREE TO CATCH QUOTA LEVELS AND ADOPTION FISHING GEAR STANDARDS THAT WILL AMELIORATE BY-CATCH PROBLEM BUT BELIEVES THAT THAT PROBLEM WILL REQUIRE OTHER MEASURES AND MUST BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY. ESTEVES CARDOSO PARTICULARLY WELCOMES MEASURES LINKED TO SPECIFIC DEPTHS, INASMUCH AS PORTUGUESE FISHERMEN CONSTANTLY TAKE SOUNDINGS BUT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW RULES THAT DEPEND ON ESTABLISHING LOCATION. F. WHILE GOP AGREES WITH US OBJECTIVES RE DETENTION OF VESSELS, IT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT MEASURES PROPOSED BY US WOULD WORK. PORTUGAL, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD NOT AFFORD MORE THAN ONE INSPECTION VESSEL IN VAST AREA COVERED BY WESTERN ATLANTIC. THIS LACK COULD LEAD TO UNSUPPORTABLY LONG DETENTION PERIODS FOR PORTUGUESE VESSELS. ESTEVES CARDOSO BELIEVES THAT VIABLE ALTER-

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NATIVE MIGHT BE TO STATION OFFICIALS OF MEMBER NATIONS IN SELECTED US PORTS BEFORE WHOM OFFENDING SHIPS COULD BE BROUGHT FOR QUICK ACTION RE CATCH VIOLATIONS.

3. AT THE SAME TIME THAT HE SUPPORTED US OBJECTIVES AND STRESSED GOP WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOWARD THEM, ESTEVES CARDOSO MILDLY

CHIDED US FOR TELLING OTHER MEMBERS " THEY HAD BEEN BAD BOYS" AND
THREATENING TO WITHDRAW. HE SAID THIS TACTIC HAD BEEN ILL-
RECEIVED BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN OTHER COUNTRIES (HE JUST RETURNED
FROM LONDON). WITHDRAWAL IN HIS VIEW WOULD BE NO SOLUTION INASMUCH
AS PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED ONLY BY COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF ALL
MEMBERS, EACH OF WHOM POSSESSES SPECIAL SKILLS.

4. ESTEVES CARDOSO SAID EMBASSY COULD EXPECT RECEIVE WRITTEN
RESPONSE FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY TO POINTS MADE IN AIDE MEMOIRE. HE
INDICATED THIS RESPONSE WOULD, IN MORE GENERAL TERMS, CONTAIN
IDEAS HE HAD PRESENTED O
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